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VIRGINIA UNDER GOVERNOR HARVEY.*

(COLONIAL PAPERS, VOL. 10, NO. 57.)

Right Hono^{ble}

Wee have received yor Lor^{pps} Hono^{ble} Letters of the 29th of July Last past requiring us to take care that a certificate inclosed under the hands of the sub committees for Forraign Plantations Should be by us observed, and executed until further order shall be established by yor Lor^{pps} upon our answere to two Petitions likewyse there^{wth} sent wch pr'sented to yor Lor^{pps} one in the name of the merchants adventurers, Masters and others trading to Virginia and the other in the name of the Planters, Traders and others of the Plantation in Virginia.

The First Informeth that they have ever had free accesse unto the said Plantations wthout payment of any charges whatsoev^{r} untill of Late they are compelled by the officers heere to pay these sev^{r}all taxations as followeth: First for every shipp that comes hither conteyning two hundred Tunns fifty pounds weight of powder and soe p^{r}portionably for every ship of greater or lesser burden, and allso after the same Rate for shott, match, and all other sort of defensive provision whatsoever.

That the petitioners are compelled at theire comming to Virginia to sweare all the Passengers that they bring hither, and to pay six pence p^{r} piece for every one of them, Not^{wth}standing the Petitioners in obedience to sev^{r}all orders, and Proclamations made in that behalf doe sweare the sayd Passengers before theire departure from thence etc.

That the Petitioners are by the officers heere compelled to pay two pence for every hogshead of Tobacco wch they ship aboard any of theire shipps notwthstanding the greate customes and Imposts that that commoditye payes in England at their Returne.

To all wch wee submit our answere to yor Lor^{pps} with the reasons of the sayd p^{r}tended taxes as followeth:

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* Governor Harvey was deposed and sent out of the colony in 1635, but was reinstated in the following year.

At a grand Assembly holden by the Governor and Counsell then being together wth the Burgesses for the sev^{r}all Plantation, bearing Date the 21st of February, Anno Dom. 1631, (the Fort at Point comfort being then newly ffinished). It was thought fitt by the said Assembly for a continuall supply of ammunition to the sayd Fort to order a p'portionable payment of powder and shott from the shipps trading wthin the Colonye, the true copye of wch act then established out of the Records under the signett of the counsell and the hand of the Sec^{r}tarye Wee here^{wth} present, being made seaven years since.

The same act in noe part caryed was renewed and confirmed by an assembly holden the 4th of September, Anno Dom. 1632, here^{wth} allso certifyed as aforesayd.

This Act was repealed and the payment abated att ann Assembly holden the 21st of August, 1633, the copy whereof is now likewyse Transmitted according to the Tenor of this Last being five years sethence enacted, the payments of powder, and shott mentioned in the Petition have bene constantly made wthout any alteration or innovation therein by us of the commission now in force, but whereas they add match and all other sort of defensive p^{r}vision whatsoev^{r} wee are altogether ignorant of what they intend thereby further then this Last Act Expresseth.

And whereas yor Lor^{pps} require from us a particular accompt how this aforesayd powder and ammunition have bene imployed for three yeares Last Past and what provision thereof remayneth and in what places.

Yo^{r} Lor^{pps} may please to be informed that a yeare since Capt. Francis Hooke* dyed (who had borne the command of the Fort

*Writing April 9th, 1635, Governor Harvey tells Secretary Windebank that he knows no man so fit to command the fort at Point Comfort as Captain Francis Hooke, who was an old servant of King James, and requests the King's approbation for his appointment to that office (*Calendar English Colonial State Papers*, Vol. I). He had lately been a naval officer, commanding a ship on the Irish coast (*Virginia Carolorum*). On January 18th, 1636–7, he was appointed a member of the Council, but only lived a few years. At a Quarter Court held at Jamestown April, 1640, Captain Thomas Willoughby represented that he had furnished a barrel of gunpowder, of the weight of 100 lbs., "to accommodate the funeral" of Captain Francis Hooke, the late commander of the fort at Point Comfort, and one of his Majesty's Councillors for Vir-

two yeares) at whose death there was not soe much powder left in the Fort as would Lode one piece of Ordinance to discharge att his Funerall, But there was deu by his Booke fifty pounds of powder to the Fort being Lent by the sayd Capt. Hooke the Summer before to one Lieftenant Upton* in a case of Distresse and Danger Doubted from the Neighbouring Indians to the Inhabitants of the Isle of Wight countye where the sayd Upton is the p'sent commander.

Upon the death of the sayd Capt. Hooke one Capt. Christopher Wormeley† was appointed by the Governor to attend the

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ginia. The Court ordered the same amount of powder to be returned to him. The following patents were issued: (1) Captain Francis Hooke, Esqr., 100 acres in Elizabeth City upon the Strawberry Banks, and on a creek next to the fort field, August 9th, 1637; (2) Captain Francis Hooke, Esqr., 50 acres in Elizabeth City in Pascall's Neck, and lying south on Point Comfort creek, August 10th, 1637; (3) "Captain Francis Hooke, Esqr., and one of the Council of State, to him and his successors, who shall be Captain of the fort after him, forever, a parcel of land commonly called the fort field, beginning at a well [spring?] commonly called the Plackett well, which is upon the creek side, which runneth up by the Gatehouse west, and soe to a place where a house stood where one Powell lived, and from there directly to a spring on the bank of the Creeke right over against the house of Thomas Oldis, Gent.," August 28th, 1637; (4) Captain Francis Hooke 2,000 acres [in the present Prince George], bounded on the Flowerdew Hundred side by a creek, and on the Martin's Brandon side by Asheley's bay or Captain Ward's creek, October 6th, 1637.

Berry's Sussex and Hampshire Genealogies give pedigrees of a family of Hooke, which is doubtless that from which Captain Hooke descended. Richard Hooke, of Surrey, married ——— Payne, of Eaton, and was great grandfather of John Hooke, of Bramshott, county Southampton, Esq., who was the father of (1) Henry, of Bramshott, Esq., who married Margaret, daughter of Cuthbert Lyne, and sister of Sir Humphrey Lyne, Knight, and was living in 1634, and (2) Francis Hooke, "Captain R. N."

*See a note under "Land Patents" in this issue.

†Captain Christopher Wormeley was Governor of Tortuga 1632–35, and appointed member of the Virginia Council in 1637 (*Calendar Colonial State Papers*); was a justice of Charles River [York] county 1636 (*York Records*), Commander-in-chief of Charles River and Elizabeth City counties 1639-40 (*Robinson's Notes*), and was in England in 1641. He

service of the Fort untill his Maties further pleasure therein should be Knowen who comming to the command after the arrival of most of the shipps of that yeare received little powder, the masters p^{r}tending they had payed at theire going out, and what was payd was soe bad that it onely served to give every ship a salute at her departure according to the custome of the place. By wch meanes at the enterance of Capt. Richard Morrison the p^{r}sent commander by commission from his ma^{tie} he found but sixteene pound of powder which hath bene this yeare received, and what is unpaid, and what is now remayning (besides the fifty pounds deu as aforesayd from Lieftenant Upton wch shall bee forth^{wth} returned) yor Lor^{ppe} may please to receive in List here^{wth} p^{r}sented under the hands of the sayd Capt. Wormeley and Capt. Morrison.

2^{ly} It was one of the Instructions from the Late Treasurer and company to Sr Francis Wyatt K^{nt} at his coming to be governor bearing Date the 24th of July 1631 th [at] all persons arriving to Inhabite heere should take the oaths of allegiance and supremacye as by the Duplicate of the sayd Instruction humbly p^{r}sented appeareth.

The like was commanded by Instruction from that most hono^{ble} Board bearing Date the 19th of aprill anno Dom. 1626 directed to Sr George Yeardly Knight then governor and to the counsell heere, the copy whereof is herewth all Transmitted.

The same was required by Instruction from yor Lor^{ppe} of that most Hono^{ble} Board directed to Capt. John Harvey Governor, and the counsell heere bearing date the 6th of August 1628.

The same is now againe commanded by Instruct^{n} from his ma^{tie} directed to John Harvey Knight Governor and the Rest of his mat^{ies} counsell therein nominated bearing date the 22nd day of May in the twelft yeare of his Highnes Raigne. The copyes of both for yor Lor^{ppe} fuller satisfaction wee have p^{r}sented though

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married Mary ———, and was dead in 1649. He probably left a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Richard Kemp, Secretary of Virginia, and may have been the father of Christopher Wormeley, of Middlesex, who was appointed to the Council in 1683. An account of Captain Christopher Wormeley's English ancestors is given in "Recollections of Admiral Ralph Randolph Wormeley."

the [re] nothing vary in substance from the former to Sr George Yeardlye and for the payment of six pence p pole for all Passengers. It was enacted at a grand assembly holden the 21st of February anno Dom. 1631 That the Captain of the Fort should Keepe Register of all Passengers names together wth theire ages countryes and Townes where they were borne as by the s^{d} act truly copyed, and sent more at large appeareth which act allso injoynes the sayd Capt. among other things therein expressed to administer the oath of allegiance and supremacye to all new comers.

For whose satisfaction and paynes in the execution of the p^{r}misses six pence p. poll was ordered to him the sayd Capt. by act of court bearing Date the 10th of March anno Dom. 1633 heerwth likewyse certifyed. Which order of court through the neglect of the then Sec^{r}tary being imperfectly Drawn received check, and cavill thereby, divers affirmeing that six pence was ordered to be demanded, but noe payment commanded.

Thereupon Capt. Hooke the then Commander (in the absence of Sr John Harvey) sue (d) to the court for redresse and had the former order inlarged as by Duplicate thereof may appeare to y^{r} Lor^{pps}, upon wch order Capt. Hooke receiving the sayd six pence p. poll. The now Capt. by a clause in his Commission under the Greate Seale to receive all the ffees that Capt. Hooke had, or might have had Claymeth the same.

3^{ly} His ma^{tie} was pleased by his Highness Letters under his Royall Hand and signett bearing date at Rufford the 4th day of August, and in the Twelfth yeare of his Raigne directed to the now Governor and counsell to require us cause some fitt place to be appointed where entry should be made of all Tobacco, and other goods hence exported etc.

And that wee should ordeine an able officer to keepe a Register thereof, who is to certify yearely the Lord Treasurer of England for the tyme being what Tobacco, and other goods are hence exported for whose incouragement his mat^{ies} pleasure was that wee should appoint the sayd officer a competent ffee and allowance out of the sayd commodityes. In p'formance whereof, wee were further required (as by the Duplicate herewth p^{r}sented) may appeare to your Lord^{pps} to be very diligent.

In obedience to wch mandate from his mat^{ie}, Mr. Richard Kemp

the Sec^r^tary was appointed to certifye the Invoices as aforesaid and to keepe Register of yt accordingly.

And wee p'pounded to the assembly that they would advise some ffee and allowance for his paines therein according to his Maties express commands wch fee and allowance was ordered to be two pence p cask for the Tobacco and after the same Rate for other goods, to be payed to the sayd officer by the Masters of the Shipps when they bring in their Invoices. All wch more at Large appeareth by the Act itselfe truly copyed and certifyed.

In which case yor Lor^pps^ may please to be informed that his ma^ties^ commands to the aforesaid effect arrived about the 17th of January, 1636, and were published about the 20th of the same month, to the Counsell, and Mr. Kemp was then appointed to execute that service wch he did that yeare accordingly (there being at that tyme but one shipp gone out of the river) but w^th^out any ffee or allowance, or demand thereof, though he might have required it with warrant sufficient.

But he concurred (as he informed the Masters) that it would bee too burthensome for them to pay the sayd fee that yeare in respect theire shipps were freighted (before notice of the order) for want whereof it could not be p'vided by them to take caution of the owners of the Tobacco for their repayment.

The year following (vizt) 1637, The Shipps payd the said allowance, or valuable satisfaction, not all in money (as is informed), for some gave Tobacco, others Bills of Exchange, and some who could best spare it money. But yor Lor^pps^ may please to be further informed herein that the last five Shipps that went away the last yeare payd the sayd ffee to Mr. Jerome Hawley the Treasurer, who was specially appointed by his Maj^tie^ to that service by his Royall of the 22th of April in the thirteenth yeare of his Maties reign, by whose Death the sayd office is again placed upon the Sec^r^tarye (who not w^th^standing his Maties pleasure for an allowance, wch is ordered in soe faire a way as by an Assembly) in submission to yor Lor^pps^ Order readily obeyeth according to a act of Counsell made to that purpose by us since the receipt of yor Lor^pps^ Hono^ble^ Letters, that the taking of that ffee shall be suspended, the shipps giving in bond for the payment thereof yf yor Lor^pps^ shall fynd it fitting.

And whereas the difficulty of payeing sterling money is In-

formed The Assembly whose interest for the matter of payment it is, did not soe conceive of it, but they found it more fitt and the masters better inabled soe to discharge it then for the officer when his service at p^r^fixed place is required to collect it, or trouble himselfe wth keeping the account of it. The uncertaintye of Tobacco was allso considered, and therefore noe deu payment to be regulated that way, for wch reason the ffees of the sec^r^tarye and of the Sheriffs, or Marshall's have many yeares since by act of assembly bene rated in money, much inconvenience thereby being avoyded both to the officer and Planter according to the raising and falling of the commoditye, and yett the sayd officers doe not exact money sterling for theire ffees, but valuable satisfaction eyther in Tobacco or corne in wch course the act doth warrant them.

And the Sec^r^tarye doth humbly submitt his moderate demeanor, and carriage herein to yor Lor^pps^ graver consideration.

The first yeare the service to his greate Labour was by him executed w^th^out reteining the allowance.

The last yeare some of them payed to him in money the rest eyther by bill exchange or valuable satisfaction otherwise, and what he did receive in the whole, was but part of one yeares shipping, wch is a matter too light to inrich him according to the noyse thereof made by some.

By our humble answer to this first Petition and the three taxations therein mentioned yor Lor^pps^ may please to fynd the first payment established heere seaven years since.

The second in the matter of execution seaventeene years since, and the payment seaven years sithence.

The third by his Maties spetiall commands to the now governor and counsell Directed. And therefore we humbly submitt our sufferings herein in that they informe, That of Late they are compelled by the officers here to pay etc. Which they impute was whom his ma^tie^ is pleased at p^r^sent to appoint of his counsell heere resident.

For answere to theire second Petition whereas the Petitioners Informe that that they and all that ever traded to Virginia since the first Plantation there have allwayes enjoyed a free Trade and Libertye to unlode theire goods, and commodityes at any of the

sayd Plantations wthout any restraint at all, and were never confined or Lymited to one Place only to unlode theire goods.

That now by an order made by the Governor of the sayd Plantation in August Last the Petitioners are confined and compelled to unlode theire goods only at James Towne and noe where els' etc.

Wee cannot but wonder at the strangeness of the Information and that wthout awe or dread of yor Lor^{pps}, they should assume the priviledge from the distance between them and us, to bring to yor Lor^{pps} such apparent falsityes, and untruths to the Scandall and traducing of the persons and actions of those who sitt heere by the authoritye of his ma^{ties} Royall commission.

What they meane by an order in August Last, they better know then wee, for they may as trewly charge any thing to us as that, wch by the sequell will more plainly appeare to yor Lor^{pps}.

In the tyme of the Late Treasurer, and Companye (as all men that lived heere in those tymes constantly affirme) there was noe Port allowed but this of James Towne, Nor noe merchant but one Cape merchant, who had his residence at the sayd place.

What Instructions Sr Francis Wyatt received to that purpose (who was the first Governor after recalling of the companyes Pattent that had immediate commission from the King) wee are not able to Informe through the defect of the Records in that particular.

The succeeding Governor Sr George Yeardlye among his other Instructions from that most Hono^{ble} Board had this in espetiall charge not to suffer any Masters of shipps to break bulk before theire arrival at James Cittie as by the Instruction itself certifyed appeareth, which was duly (as it very well knowen, and confessed by the Masters of shipps trading hither in those tymes) by him executed.

The Governors elect after the death of Sr George Yeardlye by his commission were required to observe the same Instruction.

Sr John Harvey the Governor that now is by Instruction of the 6th of August, 1628, from yor Lor^{pps} of his Maties most Hono^{ble} Privy Counsell directed to him by the name of Capt. John Harvey was especially required to regulate the shipping in the same manner, his Instruction agreeing verbatim wth that given to Sr George Yeardlye certifyed as aforesayd.

His Matie has pleased by his Highnes Instructions under his Royal hand of the 22th of May in the Twelfth yeare of his Raigne directed to Sr John Harvey, Knight, Governor and others of his Maties counsell therein nominated peremptorilye to command us, that to avoyd the intollerable abuse of ingrossing commodityes and Forestalling the markett. We should require all Masters of shipps not to break bulk till they arrive at James Cittie or otherwise wthout spetiall order from the Governor.

By all wch yor Lor^{pps} may discerne the falsitye of the accusation in that they informe, they are confined and compelled by an order made by the Governor heere in august Last to unlode etc.

When on the contrary his ma^{ties} commands are now instant upon us, and the Directions of that most Hono^{ble} Board have in all tymes bene p'emtory for the effecting, and executing thereof.

The intollerable abuse of engrossing commodityes & fforestalling the market by the greate wisdome of his ma^{tie}, and of yor Lor^{pps} being foreseene and p^{r}vented in this order.

Without wch course it is likewise impossible for us to render any deu account to other Late Instructions from his Matie directed unto us.

We are required to endeavor to reduce, and draw the people into Townes wch as yet is by noe other meanes, and wayes to be effected then by confining the Trade to one place, wch will draw merchants and Tradesmen to build and inhabit together. In p'suance of wch his ma^{ties} Instructions wee did the last yeare p'pound to the assembly, and an act did accordingly passe.

That a convenient p'portion of ground for a house and a garden Plott should be allotted to every p'son that would undertake to build upon the same Land and the Grant or Pattent from the Governor to such p'son soe undertaking should be good and effectuall in the Law against any p'son clayming any former Right or proprietye in the sayd land as if noe such Right or proprietye ever had bene reserving notwthstanding to all Owners of Land prioritye and priviledge to build thereupon as by the same act wch all the Rest of that Assembly two yeares since pr'sented to yor Lor^{pps} more at large appeareth.

Since which order there are twelve houses and stores built in the Towne, one of brick by the Sec^{r}tarye, the fairest that ever was knowen in this countrye for substance and uniformitye, by

whose example others have undertaken to build framed howses to beautifye the place, consonant to his ma^{ties} Instruction that wee should not suffer men to build slight cottages as heretofore.

Such hath bene our Indeavour herein that out of our owne purses wee have Largely contributed to the building of a brick church, and both masters of shipps and others of the ablest Planters have liberally by our p'suasion underwritten to this work. A Levye likewyse by his ma^{ties} commands is raised for the building of a State howse at James Cittie, and shall wth all diligence be p'formed. Wee beseech yor Lor^{pps} favour to the Information.

There was not one foote of ground for half a mile together by the Rivers syde in James Towne but was taken up and undertaken to be built before yor Lor^{pps} order arrived commanding that until stores were built all men should be p'mitted to Land theire goods in such places as should be for theire owne conveniencye.

Wee found the undertakers generally disheartened by this Order espetially the Report of Seamen and all others who arrived this yeare concurring that now the Ports were free, and every man might Land his goods where he pleased.

The necessitye of the service did therefore inforce us to restraine some shipps to the Port this yeare, those in particular whose owners had sufficient stores in the Towne which to doe wee did therefore p'sume, in that yor Lor^{pps} commands were not absolute, but Lymited until such tyme as stores were built, wch allready is done in number and capacitye to hold more goods by farr then were sent in this yeare.

Some of the shipps were p'mitted to go to what places they pleased, Least it might be conceived that yor Lor^{pps} commands were not of authority or respect with us, which we humbly crave, may not be believed concerning us for we are ready in all humility, and Obedience to submit to yor Lor^{pps} pleasures in ought that shall be required from us.

The Insolvencyes of some of the masters have bene very strange this yeare as though by a single Information at home they could p'cure a countermand to all Orders and Instructions wch wee have received from his Maties wch they liberally suggest

and boast in all places insomuch that the authority is much slighted and contemned.

And we cannot forbeare (out of our deutye to the service) to acquaint yor Lor^{pps} that wee doubt we are betrayed by such who designe all alteration in Government for perticular proffitt.

Wee are credably informed that divers are employed in all parts of London as spyes upon us, who invited the meanest of the Planters newly come for England into taverns and there working upon theire weakness wth the advantage of Wyne, they mould them as they please, and by much importunitye draine from them some matter of greviance wch is streight writt downe, the partye being thus insnared to instifye a complaint wthout cause or intent. Thus the p^{r}sent government is disabled, and by these meanes an alteration is prepared, wch wee offer to yor Lor^{pps} Graver consideration. Wee are required by his Matie to endeavour by severe punishment to suppresse and to be carefull that Greate Quantityes of Wyne and strong waters be not sold into the hands of those that are likelyest to abuse it, but that soe nere as wee can it should be equally disposed for the reliefe of the Plantation. For the better effect whereof (and wthout wch course it was impossible to establish a deu observance to this Instruction) wee did p'pound to the assembly and at Length wth greate difficulty wee obteyned for an act to passe. That noe man should buy wine or strong Liquors wthout Lycense from the Governor, or one of the counsell upon penalltye in the sayd act expressed, it being further p'vided that the sayd Lycense shall not exceed six pence.

What benefit hath arisen to the colonye by this act (as may be conceived) did plainly appeare to the Last Assembly when some of the ablest Burgesses did confesse That the collonye had not bene soe neare out of debt these sixteene yeares as then it was.

But yf the shipps be p'mitted to goe at pleasure and ride in every hole as is desired by them, both the Instruction itself, and the act grounded thereupon must loose their weight, and wished effect.

By all wch it may appeare to yor Lor^{pp} that the restraint of the shipping to James Towne, p'ceeded not from an order in August last (as is suggested) but from the command of his Matie and of

yor Lor^{pps} from tyme to tyme wth greate wisdome established for p^{r}venting of ingrossing and forestalling, Of Drunkenness and much other disorder being also the most indifferent place for its scituation in the heart and center of the country, being the residence of the Governor and the place of all publique meetings and despatches wthout wch course there must be rather a scrambling then a Trade and therefore wee humbly sue that our Information herein may be rather credited then these men who urge theire particular advantage and conveniencye wthout regard had to the weale publique.

The Petitioners seeme to give six reasons against this order:

1. In regard of the want of storehouses, etc., wch wee have before answered reyther shall they have any p^{r}tence or colour for the want of them hereafter.

2^{ly} That the Planters do live Remote from James Towne and have noe Boates, etc.

Wee acknowledge this a miserable want by wch theire Lives may be endangered and therefore have studyed by all wayes to remedye it But as Long as the shipps ride by them to ffeed and supply theire Riotts wth wines and strong Liquors they will be allwayes disabled to purchase Boats, or to any other good, and p'fitable undertaking, therefore wee conceive that there is noe such course to force the Planter to furnish himself wth boating as by this order which will both necessitate, and enable him thereto, for we may justly affirme That before this order was executed halfe the commoditye of the countrye was expended in the meere superfluitye of wyne and strong waters.

3^{ly} That victualls and entertainment at James Towne now are and by reason of this order will increase to too excessive and extreame Rates.

This order will make victualls both plentifull and cheape and incourage the Planters to breed Poultry,. and hoggs, to plant Rootes and all sorts of garden p'visions, and to bring them dayly to a markett where from soe much resort they may be assured of rent.

4^{ly} That the charge of bringing tobacco from the severall Plantations to James Towne are and will be very Greate yf the shipps be compelled to take in theire whole freight there.

His mat^{ies} Instruction requireth us not to suffer shipps to breake bulke or unlode before arrival at James Towne, noe mention being therein of Loding at the sayd Port, neyther were they ever compelled, or restrained in that particular, therefore they unjustly complaine, and before any cause given them in that kynd.

5^{ly} That many Boats Lading of goods since the making of the sayd order passing from James Towne to the Remote Plantations have been lost.

This is merely p'tence, for where one Boate miscarryeth at the Towne (wch is very commodious for shipping, and Boates) Ten miscarry in other places.

6^{ly} That the Planters are compelled by this order to pay six pence for a Bill of store for every parcell of goods that they buy there, be it more or lesse.

As before wee gave Information to yor Lor^{pps} according to an Act of Assembly there is six pence payd for every Lycense to buy Wyne or strong Liquors, but concerning payments for bills of store for other goods, it is very untrue for there was never any such compullsion (as is found) nor any ffee payed or demanded in that kynd to our knowledge.

By our answere in all. Wee hope yor Lor^{pps} may perceive the greate Injustice to the service occasioned by the malitious untruths of such who by all means goe about and studdy to Tradduce us and our actions though directly squared to the Rule of his ma^{ties} and yor Lor^{pps} commands and according to the Lawes and Orders Established at Grand Assemblyes consisting of Governor counsell and Burgesses for the Severall Plantations. Which (by reason of the violent opposition to the Governor by those of the Last counsell) never received lyfe or execution untill of late.

Wee are ready at all tymes particularly to represent to yor Lor^{pps} the greate advancement the service hath gained by our Vigilancye and dilligence expressed herein.

Which wee the Rather take boldness humbly to move to consideration in Respect of the paucitye of our number (being but five in all wth the Governor himselfe to assist the service).

Wee beseech yor Lor^{pps} beliefe heerin. There is nothing wanting in our Indeavour or example to actuate those frequent commands, and Long hopes of the State in the Undertaking of sta-

ple commodityes in so much that fower of our number have underwritt to sett the Plough on going this next yeare and by our inducement and p'suasion many more will and some allreadye have done the like, to wch purpose wee have at p^{r}sent a good Quantitye of seed Corne the last yeare growing in the country and this season wee hope wth Gods Blessing for a plentifull store.

Wee are againe beginning wth silk worms for instance wee have humbly p^{r}sented to his ma^{tie} a Quantity made this yeare in the country, wch is transmitted to Mr. Secretary Windebank.

The Noble ffavoure of yor Lor^{pps} in vouchsafing us these Informations whereby to clear ourselves of their unjust taxes, wee humbly acknowledge and in all submission tender our most devoted thanks for the same, the continuance whereof wee crave may be afforded us. And that yor Lor^{pps} would be honourably pleased to add unto us this Incouragement, that in case where any such complaints of taxes and grievances are brought to yor Lor^{pps} and directly charged againt us, yor Hon^{ors} would be pleased to cause the partyes to putt in caution to prove the truth of them. Otherwise to stand them by yor Lor^{pps} for theire misinformations. By wch meanes many suspensions in the execution of the service to the greate p^{r}judice thereof will be avoyded.

The much disparagement wch wee suffer and are every day obvious to, by injurious insinuations will be lessened and controlled and many Rumours and Tales of change and alteration in Government (ever banefull to the service of this place) will be checked and silenced.

All wch this our whole Answere wee humbly submitt to yor Lor^{pps} Judicious considerations in all obedience Resting.

James cittie the 18th of January 1638.

Yo^{r} Lor^{pps} humbly to serve you in all commands.

[Signed.]

RICH. KEMP, JOHN HARVEY,
WILLIAM BROCAS, HENERY BROWN.

(Indorsed.) The duplicate of the Letter to the Lords from the Governor and counsell in answere of the Petitions &c.

Virginia 18th January 1638.